

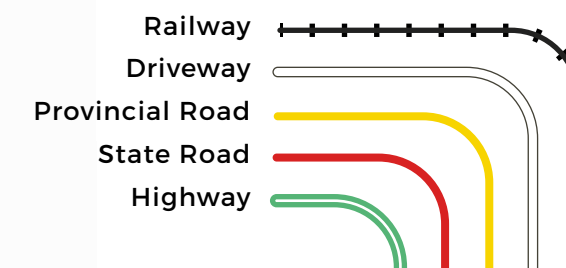


COMUNE DI
BUCINE
Provincia di Arezzo



TOUR GUIDE BUCINE AND VALDAMBRA

LEGEND



ART AND HISTORY

The Valdambra is an area steeped in history and life. Over the years, this land has yielded numerous testimonies: fossil and anthropological finds, the remains of Etruscan, Roman and medieval settlements, places of extraordinary beauty and intensity. A long and well-traced history that makes this place magical to discover and admire. A history that starts from its roads, such as the Etruscan ones, which can still be travelled along paths that run along the impressive hill ridges. With the arrival of the Romans, the roads were reconstructed as far as the base of the valley, presumably dominated by the Consolare Adrianea road. Evidence of the Middle Ages is still evident today, with the remains of ancient fortresses such as Cennina and Galatrona that embellished the area along with other castles. There are also ancient parish

churches, such as Santa Maria a Montebenichi, San Giovanni Battista a Petrolo and San Quirico a Capannole, and important abbeys, such as San Pietro a Ruoti and Santa Maria di Agnano. Under the Florentine Republic in the mid-14th century, Valdambra acquired its current name thanks to the founding of the Valdambra League in 1360. Ever since, many prominent

figures, such as Fernando II of the Medici family and Pietro Leopoldo, Grand Duke of Tuscany, settled in the area, contributing with their works to making its historical value ever richer and its cultural identity ever more distinct.



VILLAGE OF MONTEBENICHI
Medieval castle

THE ABBEYS

BADIA AGNANO AND BADIA A RUOTI

The establishment of monastic centres in Valdambra dates back to the second half of the 10th century. The destructive Saracen and Hungarian raids of the ninth century had a profound effect on the religious communities of the area and



THE ABBEY OF BADIA A RUOTI
Coronation of the Virgin and Saints and the Annunciation. Neri di Bicci (1472)



THE ABBEY OF BADIA AGNANO

so, as the millennium approached, the phenomenon of the fortification of the abbeys began. Soon, the fortified abbeys of Badia Agnano were built, which oversaw numerous churches and monasteries in the area towards Arezzo and the Valdichiana, and Badia a Ruoti, which extended its influence towards the upper Valdambra valley and the Siennese area. All that remains of the original Badia Agnano abbey complex today is the church, the rectory and the companion church, the

rest of which has been converted into a residential building. The abbey of San Pietro a Ruoti, meanwhile, still dominates the old and new town with its complex of buildings. Although simple, the abbey church holds many surprises, such as the eight-spoke wheel, related to the name of the abbey and its founder, and the altarpiece by Neri di Bicci in 1472.

SAN PANCRAZIO

THE MUSEUM OF REMEMBRANCE AND THE ROSE GARDEN

The village of San Pancrazio stands on a ridge between Valdambra and Valdichiana. It was here that Count Pierangeli, who was appointed Podestà, moved the seat of the Podestà to a property he had built in the 17th century. It was in one of its cellars that, in June 1944, the Germans murdered 55 people, almost all men from the village. The wives and mothers who escaped the massacre, with their strength and courage, chose to give new life to the village, making it a place of welcome and goodwill. Nowadays, in that same cellar the Museum of Remembrance stands, with a Digital Archive, where the testimonies of that tragic event are collected in order to never forget and to learn from the past for a peaceful future. In the adjacent building there is also



MEMORIAL MUSEUM

the Don Giuseppe Torelli Intercultural Centre, dedicated to the community's parish priest, who was also a victim of the massacre. Also in order to remember, in memory of the victims of that brutal day, a garden of roses was planted over time, each with a plaque, each with the number of one of the 55 victims. In the same garden, in commemoration of the pain and strength of these

women, there is a large marble statue by Firenze Poggi: a mother with strong arms holds her children, gazes at the horizon and on the lectern displays an inscription: "Here, as a perpetual reminder of the misdeeds of history, in the place marked by tragedy, a mother affirms life as a beacon on the rose garden towards the valley".

VILLAGES

Visiting the villages of Valdambra Valley is a unique experience, which offers the visitor a succession of images and places of extraordinary charm: wonderful villages surrounded by a landscape of incredible beauty, perched on rolling hills, fortress-like structures, rich in history and art: Bucine, Ambra, Duddova, Cennina, Solata, Pietraviva, San Martino, Montebenichi, Rapale, Sogna, Badia a Ruoti, Badia Agnano, San Pancrazio, Capannole, Pogi, San Leolino, Galatrona, Mercatale

Valdarno and Levane. Places full of magic and of emotion, those that are experienced with the local people, true guardians of the territory, where for centuries hands, head and heart have worked together, capable of conveying the passion for their land and of attracting every visitor into the "Tuscan" feeling, that territorial feeling, so current, but so deeply rooted in a history that no one will ever forget.



VILLAGE OF CENNINA

ROMAN BRIDGE OF POGI

The Pogi Bridge, just a few kilometres from Bucine, is one of the most significant historical monuments in the Valdambra valley. The bridge, as it looks today, is the result of a historical-architectural stratification clearly visible in the wall structure. The foundations date back to Roman times, since the bridge was located on a diversion of the Cassia Adrianea consular road, an ancient road that connected Rome to Florence. On its pylons

rests a medieval superstructure with a humpback profile and five arches, with the central arches having the largest span. Nowadays, the bridge is only passable on foot and visiting it is a unique experience, so atmospheric as to give the impression, for a moment, of going back in time, to an era so far away but so close that you can touch it.



THE ROMAN BRIDGE



TOWER OF GALATRONA